

is retiring after more than 31 years of law enforcement service, with 22 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Richard started his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff, serving three years for the El Dorado County Sheriff's office and over five years with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's office. On March 6, 1989, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, Richard worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Street Crime Apprehension (SCAT) and Field Training. He joined the Crisis Negotiations Team in 1991, the Special Activity Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Sergeant on July 30, 1999.

As a Police Sergeant, Richard served in Patrol and then Personnel and Training before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on December 14, 2001 and serving as the Commander of the Special Operations Division. He was a thoughtful and capable manager which led him to receiving the Manager of the Year award in 2002. On March 19, 2004 he was promoted to Police Captain and served in Administration, Support Services, and Field Operations.

Richard has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Richard J. Leonardini continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING THE NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Native American Code Talkers for their selfless contributions to America's defense during World Wars I and II. During these times of worldwide turmoil, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States' Armed Forces with the goal of protecting freedom and human rights around the world.

The Code Talkers, as these brave soldiers became known, used their ancient tribal languages to develop a military communications code that no enemy was ever able to crack. American Indians served bravely in both World Wars, though the most well-known code group, the Navajo Code Talkers, was not formed by the Marine Corps until the 1940s.

The Navajo Code Talkers came up with a code that enabled them to send and receive messages that were unintelligible to eavesdroppers. The Navajo language had no alphabet, and only an extraordinarily few individuals outside of the Navajo community were fluent in it, making it the ideal foundation for updating the U.S. military's slow-to-decipher and

easily broken codes. Over 400 Navajo Code talkers served bravely in World War II, and their code was considered so secretive that they were prohibited from writing it down. It was not until the declassification of the code in 1968 that Americans were truly able to appreciate the contributions of the Code Talkers.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that as we remember the brave Americans whose lives were lost at Pearl Harbor 70 years ago this week, we also honor all of America's veterans who have committed their time and risked their lives to protect our nation. It is with great honor and respect that I offer my appreciation to the Code Talkers for exemplifying the spirit and commitment of public service and duty to country. Indeed, both their code and their commitment to America remain unbreakable, and to this day we remain in awe of their achievements.

REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express strong opposition to legislation this chamber passed yesterday, H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2011.

The REINS Act requires that both chambers of Congress pass a resolution approving every regulation with an economic impact of \$100 million or more. If Congress fails to pass such a resolution, that regulation would not take effect, and the law would go unimplemented.

I oppose this legislation, which would hurt the health, safety, and well-being of my constituents and Hawaii's communities. We cannot let our constituents and communities down when it comes to these vital responsibilities.

For example, this bill would stop the rules that are being written now to implement the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act—which will rein in reckless behavior in financial markets. Important rules to implement the health care law—which is already lowering drug costs for seniors—would also be stopped. And rules relating to the recent food safety legislation and protecting clean air and water would be stopped.

These rules—and the laws they are implementing—were and are opposed by various powerful corporate special interests. Those special interests know they don't have the votes to repeal these laws—and they know the American people don't want them repealed.

So instead, corporate special interests and their allies claim that the costs of these types of rules are too big to be worth it.

They're wrong.

Even the Bush Administration recognized that the benefits of rules like these outweigh

their costs. In fact, in 2008, the Office of Management and Budget—which must sign off on all major rules developed by federal agencies—estimated that costs to the economy for major rules it approved were between \$46 billion and \$54 billion. These costs were far outweighed by the benefits of those same regulations, which they estimated to be between \$122 billion and \$656 billion. Imagine if the rules that are being written to implement Wall Street Reform had been on the books in 2005, before the financial crisis came to a head?

I believe our country could have reined in rampant, out of control behavior of Wall Street, and such regulations could have saved our economy trillions of dollars in lost economic growth and hard-earned retirement and college savings. Millions of people who have lost jobs could still be working. And this body could be focused on matters like improving U.S. education, economic competitiveness, and reducing our deficit.

Not only would this bill halt our regulatory system in its tracks, but it is also unnecessary. The Congressional Review Act already gives Congress the ability to review and disapprove of regulations if they are contrary to Congressional intent. This system ensures that the laws enacted by Congress are implemented appropriately, while preventing the law and its implementation from being hijacked by special interests on a whim—and creating disruptive uncertainty for our economy and legal system.

Mr. Speaker, people in Hawaii are tired of these politically motivated bills. They want the federal government to get to work helping to create jobs, protecting health and safety, and to do so responsibly.

The REINS Act also fails miserably on that front. This legislation would require federal agencies to conduct the rigorous analysis required to develop a rule—a process that can take several years—only to have that rule stopped by Congress. This is a waste of federal resources and irresponsible at a time when Congress needs to focus on creating jobs and reducing our deficit.

These are just some of the concerns I have with the REINS Act, and some of the reasons that I voted against this unnecessary and ill conceived legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH AN- NIVERSARY OF THE CAPITOL CORRIDOR

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Capitol Corridor train service, which connects the Sacramento Region to the San Francisco Bay Area. It is a great pleasure to recognize the corridor's stellar track record of providing cost-effective, public transportation that stimulates economic development, reduces emissions, and promotes partnerships among passengers, private investors, and the communities. As the Capitol Corridors' supporters and partners gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the essential role that the Capitol Corridor plays in Northern California.

Since its inception on December 12, 1991, with a mere six trains between Sacramento